



# THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

## INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

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July 9, 2012

To: Health Subcommittee Members

From: Majority Staff

Re: July 11, 2012, Hearing on “Helping Veterans with Emergency Medical Training Transition to Civilian Service”

The Subcommittee on Health will hold a hearing entitled, “Helping Veterans with Emergency Medical Training Transition to Civilian Service” on Wednesday, July 11, 2012, at 10:15 a.m. in room 2123 of the Rayburn House Office Building.

### I. Witnesses

The following witnesses will testify before the Subcommittee:

Mr. Ben D. Chlapek  
Chair, Military Relations Committee  
National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians

Mr. Daniel Nichols  
Senior Vice President  
Victory Media

Additional witnesses may be added.

### II. Background

Members of the U.S. military who train and serve as combat medics face State licensing challenges when they try to find similar work after discharge. Many States do not recognize their military training as applicable to the licensing requirements of the civilian health care system for Emergency Medical Services such as emergency medical technicians (EMTs) or paramedics. State licensing laws vary, and while some States make exceptions for former military medics, allowing them reciprocity and a chance to sit for the licensing examination without going through the standardized training, many do not.

While there are different protocols and certainly a different patient population within the military, soldiers with emergency medical training have a level of education and experience that

should allow them a fast track to a civilian career without having to duplicate their training. Certainly for trauma situations, military medics are just as capable, if not more capable, than civilian EMTs. Furthermore, if a civilian EMT professional enters the military, it is nearly impossible for him or her to keep up their certification while deployed for lack of access to accredited continuing education, and therefore must repeat the training upon return. With both high rates of unemployment among veterans and geographic areas with shortages of EMTs, deterrents to post-military service licensing of medics need to be resolved.

### **H.R. 4124 – Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act of 2012**

The Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act of 2012 (see attached) would provide demonstration grants to States with emergency medical technician shortages to help streamline State requirements and make allowances for returning veterans to enter the EMT workforce without unnecessary duplication of their training by:

- Determining the extent to which the State requirements for education and training of EMTs are equivalent to that of the military; and,
- Identifying methods, such as waivers, for qualified military EMTs to forego duplicative requirements.

### **III. Staff Contacts**

Should you have any questions regarding this hearing, please contact Brenda Destro or Ryan Long at (202) 225-2927.

Attachment